

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
A CITY ALL ITS OWN

Imagine that the city of Kalispell, with its population of 11,800 people, has been plucked from northern Montana, and dropped in the middle of Bozeman, along the Bridger Mountain Range in the Gallatin Valley. Imagine a city within a city, complete with its own central heating plant and power generating station, newspaper, police force, radio station, television station, and municipal infrastructure systems. This begins to paint a picture of the size and complexity of MSU-Bozeman.

To most people, it's simply MSU, a place where Montana's promising next generation enrolls to pursue its college education. But MSU is much more than just a big school; it's big business that exerts a powerful influence on most aspects of life in Montana. It was the first public university created and opened in Montana, and it's one of the largest institutions in the state - other than the state government itself. Through World Wars and national depression, MSU has never closed its doors.

With 11,753 students and a staff of 2,400, MSU by itself could be the seventh largest city in Montana, and is one of Montana's largest single employers. MSU is a community with its own culture, citizenry, government, teachers, communications systems, land, historic buildings, hi-tech buildings, housing facilities, theatres, art galleries, sports facilities, infrastructure and utility systems, and even a morgue. MSU owns its street system, parking facilities, municipal lighting systems, water, sewer, natural gas and electrical systems, a telephone system that serves over 5700

handsets, and employs the workforce necessary to maintain them all. To keep things running at MSU, the university has its own carpentry, plumbing, painting, refrigeration, electrical, machinist, heating, custodial, and grounds crews, as well as engineers, architects and planners.

MSU's commercial food service operations produce over 2 million meals a year. MSU owns and maintains a fleet of over 140 motor vehicles and equipment ranging from service vans to squad cars to back hoes.

The campus also consumes utility resources like a moderate-sized city. In fiscal year 2000, it consumed 44,270,092 kilowatt-hours of electricity, worth \$1.9 million. Natural gas cost MSU another \$1.3 million, for 331,430 dekatherms, used in part to generate 237.7 million pounds of steam in the same year. Other utilities such as water and sewer combined to push MSU's total utility budget to \$4.1 million in 2000.

So, when MSU is mentioned, in addition to excellence in education, research and outreach, think size, complexity and economic impact equal to the seventh largest city in Montana.

